

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 18, with the following  
rewritten paragraph:

B5  
An optical scanning system includes the inherent marginal distance R and a light pass length variation  $\Delta L$  which is also inherent to the optical scanning system. Accordingly, an optical scanning apparatus using the optical scanning system has an inherent marginal distance R and an inherent light pass length variation  $\Delta L$ . To satisfy a required performance, an optical scanning apparatus includes a mechanism for reducing the variations of the light pass length or correcting the displacement at the junction in accordance with the variations of the light pass length, or satisfying an equation  $\Delta L \cos \alpha < R/2$ , wherein the light pass length variation  $\Delta L$ , the incident angle  $\alpha$  at the junction, and the marginal distance R.

#### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 4, and 7 to read as follows:<sup>2</sup>

1. (Twice Amended) An optical scanning apparatus, comprising:

B6  
two optical scanning systems, each including at least one light source configured to emit a light beam, and at least one beam shaping mechanism configured to shape each light beam; and

a light deflector configured to deflect each light beam in a continuously changing direction thereby converting each light beam into a scanning light beam,

each of said two optical scanning systems further including at least one scanning beam focusing mechanism configured to bring the scanning light beam to a focus on a photoconductive surface, each scanning beam focusing mechanism satisfying an equation:

<sup>2</sup> A marked-up copy of the changes made to these claims is attached.

$\Delta L \cos \alpha < R/2$  at a junction of the scanning light beams with each other on the photoconductive surface,

wherein  $\Delta L$  represents an inherent light pass length variation between central light passage lengths of the first and second optical systems,  $\alpha$  represents an incident angle, and  $R$  represents an inherent marginal distance.

4. (Twice Amended) The optical scanning apparatus, comprising:

two optical scanning systems, each including at least one light source means for emitting a light beam, and at least one beam shaping means for shaping the light beam; and

light deflecting means for deflecting each light beam in a continuously changing direction thereby converting each light beam into a scanning light beam,

each of said two optical scanning systems further including at least one scanning beam focusing means for bringing the scanning light beam to a focus on a photoconductive surface, each scanning beam focusing means satisfying an equation:

$\Delta L \cos \alpha < R/2$  at a junction of the scanning light beams with each other on the photoconductive surface,

wherein  $\Delta L$  represents an inherent light pass length variation between central light passage lengths of the first and second optical systems,  $\alpha$  represents an incident angle, and  $R$  represents an inherent marginal distance.

7. (Twice Amended) A method of optical scanning including two optical scanning systems, comprising the steps of:

emitting at least two light beams;

shaping said at least two light beams;